GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3234
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2006
RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXPERT COMMITTEE ON COAL
Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committee had been constituted by the Government to draw a roadmap for modernization of the coal sector;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the committee;

(c) whether the Government has since examined the recommendations of the committee; and

(d) if so, the details of recommendations accepted by (he Government and the reasons for not accepting the remaining recommendations?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. D`ASARI NARAYAN RAO):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The major recommendations made by the Expert Committee in Part-I of its report are as follows:

(i) As coal shali remain India`s primary source of commercial energy supply, a time-bound plan to cover the entire country by regional mapping in 15 years should be prepared by Geological Survey of india, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute and Ministry of Coal, Government of India.

(ii) Coal India Limited (CIL) may be granted the status of Navratna company and the subsidiaries of CIL may be granted the status of Mini Ratna companies in which case only those proposals of such a subsidiary would need government approval wherein the capital expenditure exceeds Rs.500 crore.

(iii) The environmental issue in respect of projects should be taken up on priority consideration by the Government.

(iv) Planned imports of coal needs to be encouraged.

(v) Increasing proportion of all domestic coal that is not earmarked for Power Sector be brought into the E-auction market over the next 2 to 3 years.

(vi) The current system of linkages feeding the power sector may be replaced with formal long term Fuel Supply and Transport Agreements that include the Railways.

(vii) The procedures and processes need to be streamlined to expedite the allotment of the captive coal blocks in a transparent and effective manner.

(viii) All possible legal measures should be evolved to cancel the licenses issues earlier if the allottee has not taken adequate steps to bring the allotted mines to production or in setting up the end use units.

(ix) Coal price would need to be regulated in light of the market realities. The regulation of coal price has to be differentiate the pricing of coal for power generation since it consumes 80% of the domestic production and the quality of coal it consumes is not easily saleable to the steel and cement sectors.

(x) The Railway tariff (or coal should be subject to a detailed review by an independent agency, preferably headed by a High/Supreme Court Judge.

(xi) The Railways should in consultation with Planning Commission and the Ministries of Coal and Power determine the main corridors through which coal would move in very large quantities to power plants and examine the cost and feasibility of setting up dedicated trunk-routes for coal transport.
Based on the above, the following actions have been initiated:

1 . e-auction has been introduced in CIL during the year 2005-06. It was decided initially to sell 10 million tonnes of coai by CIL

subsidiaries through e-marketing for the year 2005-06 on trial basis, which was subsequently enhanced to 20 million tonnes. During the year 2006-07, the Government has allowed CIL to sell 36 million tonnes of coal through E-marketing.

2. The matter of granting status of Navratna to CIL and Mini Ratna Status to CIL subsidiaries is under consideration of Ministry of Coal.

3. Under `Increasing production through Emergency Coal Production Plan` scheme, CIL has identified 16 opencast projects/mines where production from existing mines/projects will be enhanced to a higher level yielding additional 71.3 Mt. by 2012-13. Out of 16 projects, 14 projects have been approved by the Govt./coal companies and two projects are in the process of approval.

4. CMPDI has been advised to enhance drilling capacity through outsourcing.

5. Action for de-reservation of some coal blocks in favour of power sector & others has been initiated.

6. For promotion of Clean Coal Technologies action has been initiated with cooperation of Indo-US Working Group, indo-EU Working Group and Asia Pacific Partnership etc.Committee is yet to submit Part II of the Report.